fertilizer nutrients has registered a growth of 25%, as shown in the table below.

Production of Fertilizer Nutrients

(In Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Nitrogen	Phosphate	Total
1994-95	79.45	24.93	104.38
1995-96	87.77	25.58	113.35
1996-97	85.99	25.56	111.55
1997-98	100.86	29.75	130.61

During the same period, the production of urea in the central public sector units registered a growth of 16%, as shown in the table below:

(In Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Product Public	on of Urea in Sector Units
1994-95		51.68
1995-96		52.09
1996-97		47.30
1997-98		60.07

There was a decline of 9.2% in urea production in the central public sector units during 1996-97, as compared to 1995-96. This decline was on account of limitations in the supply of gas to Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited-Thai and of power to Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited and financial/movement constraints affecting the operation of National Fertilizers Limited.

(c) and (d) Fertilizer plants in the country have been-designed to produce urea conform to the standards laid down in the Fertilizer Control Order. New Fertilizer capacities arc based on the latest efficient technologies. In so far as the existing fertilizer plants arc concerned, technological upgradation by way of retrofit, revamp and modernisation, etc. is a continuing process. Fertilizer units undertake these measures depending on their technical feasibility and financial viability.

Food poisoning in railway canteen at Tughlakabad

*347. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of railway employees fell ill due to food poisoning after taking lunch at railway canteen, Tughlakabad as reported in the 'Statesman' dated 19th June, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the quality of food etc., in various railway canteens is found to be highly substandard and unhygienic; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide safe food in railway canteens and fix responsibility for those who were found responsible for such laxity?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) An incident of food poisoning was reported in the canteen at Railway Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad on 18.6.1998. A total of 110 number of staff were affected. They were quickly sent to various hospitals escorted by Railway Doctors. Out of the 110, 51 workers were admitted/kept under observation. Condition of others did not warrant hospitalisation and therefore they were discharged. Out of the 51 workers admitted, two were kept overnight for observation while the remaining were released after some time. These two workers were also discharged the next day. A fact finding enquiry was ordered to go into the cause of the incident. The inquiry revealed the food poisoning occurred due to falling of a lizard in 'Dal'.

(c) No, Sir. The quality of food in railway canteens is not substandard or unhygienic. It was just an isolated incident.

(d) The question docs not arise. As far as this isolated incident is concerned, three employees have been prima facie held responsible for not exercising adequate care and are being taken up under